



### The War of 1812 – The Second War of American Independence

On August 21, 1814, the British military landed at Benedict, Maryland and began their march towards the Nation's Capital. The American defenders were driven back until making their stand at Bladensburg, Maryland on August 24, 1814. Also called the *Bladensburg Races* after the American defeat, the British pushed on, captured Washington, DC and set fire to the Capitol, the President's House, and other public buildings. Only a strong thunderstorm saved these government buildings. Join National Park Service Rangers for this special two-day event to learn more about the *Chesapeake Campaign*, *The Battle of Bladensburg*, and the *Burning of Washington*.



#### Saturday, August 26, 2006 – Day 1 – Bus Tour

NPS Rangers will lead an eight-hour bus tour of the entire British approach march from Benedict, MD through Upper Marlboro, MD and Bladensburg, MD, the site of the Battle of Bladensburg. The tour will conclude at the National Arboretum where the stage will be set for the Burning of Washington...

#### Sunday, August 27, 2006 – Day 2 – Bike Tour

...NPS Rangers will resume the story as the British prepare to set the Federal City ablaze. This special four-hour bike tour will follow the British line of march from Capitol Hill to Pennsylvania Avenue, the President's House, and many other sites.

Please read the following announcements for detailed information about tour times, meeting locations, and advance sign-up requirements for each of these tours.

*You may sign up for either or both tours.*





### Saturday, August 26, 2006 – Day One – Bus Tour



The British military launched their attack on Washington, DC from the port town of Benedict, Maryland, along the Patuxent River, on August 21, 1814. The British made their way towards Upper Marlboro, Maryland then on to Bladensburg, Maryland where they found a viable river crossing over the Eastern Branch of the Potomac. American forces met the war hardened British military in battle at Bladensburg on August 24, 1814. After a brief battle, the American forces broke and ran back to the apparent safety of Washington, DC. The British would be close to follow...

Join National Park Service Rangers as they retrace the steps of the British military from Benedict, Maryland through Upper Marlboro, on to Bladensburg and the American defeat, and finish in the National Arboretum where they will set the stage for the Burning of Washington. Rangers will provide a detailed background of the War of 1812 and make numerous stops along the way to detail movements, strategies, and tactics of the opposing forces.

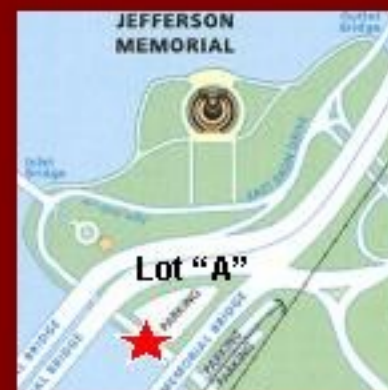


Lunch – You MUST provide your own “brown bag” lunch. We will stop at *Mount Calvert Historical & Archeological Park* for part of the tour and for lunch.

*Reservations for this FREE Bus Tour are required!!!*

Seating is limited and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact Ranger Jason Martz at (202) 438-4391 to make reservations.



Parking – FREE All-Day parking is available in Lot “A”. The bus will be parked in Lot “A” and will depart at 9:30am. We should return to Lot “A” by 5:30pm.





## Sunday, August 27, 2006 – Day Two – Bike Tour



August 24, 1814 ... After their victory at Bladensburg, the British continued their march south along Maryland Avenue and into the heart of the capital. Upon reaching the US Capitol, they reorganized into smaller parties and set out to burn the building. This accomplished, they marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to the President's House where a similar fate awaited the home of James Madison. Only a strong summer storm would put out the flames now engulfing the Federal City.

Join National Park Service Rangers as they lead a special *four-hour* bike tour that will follow the path of British destruction from Capitol Hill, along Pennsylvania Avenue, the President's House, and culminate at the Octagon House. Rangers will tie together multiple aspects of the Burning of Washington, the Chesapeake Campaign, the Battle of Baltimore, the end of the War and the Treaty of Ghent using tangible Washington, DC landmarks, monuments, personalities, and historic structures.

*Reservations for this FREE Bike Tour  
are required!!!*

Contact Ranger Jason Martz at (202) 438-4391  
to make reservations.

### Tour Information

Tour will begin at 1:00pm at the  
Thomas Jefferson Memorial Plaza.  
This special tour will last *four hours*  
and finish at the Octagon House.

All riders must wear a helmet.

Note – No tour of the Octagon House  
will be offered this year.



Octagon House circa 1913



The Treaty Room in the Octagon  
House – desk and chair upon  
which President James Madison  
signed the Treaty of Ghent